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## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, AUGUST 1985

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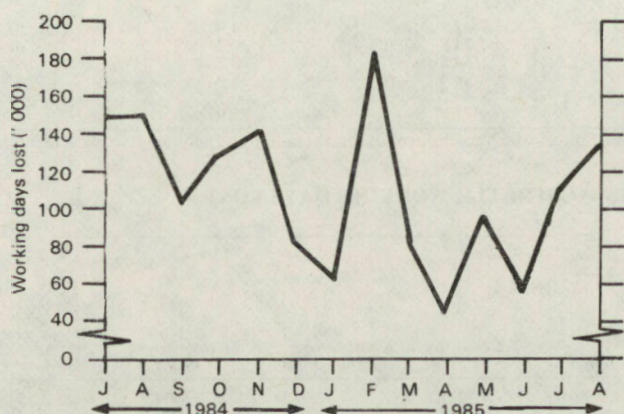
## MAIL INQUIRIES

for more information about these statistics—contact Mr Michael Koukoulas on Canberra (062) 52 6561 or any of our State offices.

*other inquiries including copies of publications*—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6627 or in any of our State offices.

write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.

## MAIN FEATURES



In August 1985, 135,200 working days were lost by 95,900 workers in 209 disputes. In the 12 months ended August 1985, 1,243,900 working days were lost. This is the lowest level for a 12 month period since the 12 months ended April 1969 when 1,074,400 working days were lost.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

## Coverage

The statistics relate only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more *at the establishments where the stoppages occurred.*

2. The figures of working days lost relate to the losses due to industrial disputes (as defined in paragraph 4) and not to aggregate losses for the economy as a whole. Details shown in this publication refer to all disputes in progress during the reference period indicated.

3. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and government) and trade unions concerning individual disputes and from reports of government authorities. Particulars of some stoppages (for example, those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving only a broad measure of the extent of industrial disputes (as defined).

## Definitions

4. For these statistics an *industrial dispute* is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of

their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance.

5. *Workers involved* include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute.

6. Differences between monthly and annual totals of workers involved can occur due to temporary cessations of stoppages that resume in subsequent months. Workers re-involved in this type of dispute are included in the monthly totals.

7. *Working days lost* refer to man-days lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and figures are generally as reported by parties to the dispute. For some disputes working days lost are estimated on the basis of the number of workers involved and the duration of the dispute.

8. *Working days lost per 1,000 employees* have been compiled from those lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more in the establishments where the stoppages occurred. Working days lost in agriculture, etc. and in private households employing staff have been *excluded* from Tables 4 and 5 but *included* in Tables 1 to 3.

9. The estimates of employees are obtained from the Labour Force survey.

### Other ABS publications

10. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

*Industrial Disputes, Australia (6322.0)*—issued annually, contains more detailed information including statistics on the cause, method of settlement and duration of industrial disputes.

*Labour Statistics, Australia, 1984 (6101.0) (\$4.50, \$6.50 incl. postage)*

*The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)—issued monthly (\$1.10, \$1.90 incl. postage)*

11. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The *Catalogue* and *Publications Advice* are available from any ABS office.

### Symbols and other usages

r revised

12. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

**W. McLENNAN**  
**Acting Australian Statistician**



TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Workers involved ('000)		Working days lost ('000)
	Commenced in period	Total(a)	Newly involved(b)	Total(a)	
1982	2,045	2,060	691.3	722.9	2,158.0
1983	1,779	1,787	453.0	470.5	1,641.4
1984	1,958	1,965	553.1	562.3	1,307.4
Twelve months ended—					
August 1983	1,792	1,821	471.7	489.9	1,683.2
1984	1,843	1,870	439.4	451.7	1,291.4
1985	1,871	1,897	619.4	636.8	1,243.9
1984—					
September	184	210	31.8	49.1	101.6
October	201	220	74.3	77.1	134.1
November	207	229	98.3	103.9	145.8
December	108	134	57.2	73.7	82.3
1985—					
January	111	126	25.5	43.3	61.4
February	160	188	46.5	51.4	187.2
March	148	167	42.1	48.7	84.5
April	105	123	24.8	29.3	46.4
May	134	153	64.8	70.3	98.4
June	133	155	28.4	34.9	57.2
July	205	229	54.2	60.3	109.8
August	175	209	71.9	95.9	135.2

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Comprises workers involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional workers involved in disputes which continued from the previous month.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	Mining		Manufacturing		Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (a)	All industries
	Coal	Other	Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other				
1982	525.8	157.1	241.8	333.0	231.1	296.2	373.1	2,158.0
1983	122.8	194.7	157.6	120.7	337.2	213.6	494.8	1,641.4
1984	131.1	193.2	144.8	249.3	116.3	150.6	322.1	1,307.4
Twelve months ended—								
August 1983	130.6	155.3	217.6	232.1	261.0	170.7	516.0	1,683.2
1984	115.4	236.7	109.5	207.4	196.7	141.5	284.1	1,291.4
1985	224.3	98.4	153.6	210.0	168.1	153.9	235.5	1,243.9
1984—								
September	15.0	14.4	14.4	19.0	8.5	23.8	6.5	101.6
October	9.6	13.6	25.9	27.6	30.0	11.1	16.2	134.1
November	24.0	6.9	20.8	19.0	8.1	19.5	47.4	145.8
December	9.0	4.3	12.3	6.4	1.2	13.2	35.8	82.3
1985—								
January	2.3	4.8	1.8	6.8	7.9	24.8	12.9	61.4
February	102.8	13.1	18.2	4.8	6.0	8.0	34.1	187.2
March	26.5	4.2	12.7	5.9	8.9	8.6	17.7	84.5
April	1.0	2.5	3.5	13.1	7.8	5.5	13.2	46.4
May	9.3	3.7	24.4	19.5	33.3	3.2	5.1	98.4
June	11.5	2.5	3.3	6.9	14.1	1.2	17.8	57.2
July	16.3	11.7	6.0	31.0	22.4	16.3	15.9	109.8
August	6.9	16.7	10.3	50.0	19.9	18.6	12.9	135.2

(a) ASIC divisions A, D, F, I to L.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (a)
1982	961.6	368.0	509.8	66.6	162.4	61.5	2,158.0
1983	801.2	257.7	135.0	87.7	270.6	67.8	1,641.4
1984	660.6	187.5	236.5	25.5	119.2	50.5	1,307.4
Twelve months ended—							
August 1983	904.9	325.5	127.3	94.0	156.2	62.1	1,683.2
1984	535.8	196.9	205.2	23.8	224.0	73.3	1,291.4
1985	497.4	243.2	319.3	22.8	107.9	28.1	1,243.9
1984—							
September	45.0	21.4	22.3	0.6	9.3	2.2	101.6
October	53.9	29.9	22.8	0.6	20.9	3.9	134.1
November	99.7	16.5	15.1	2.8	6.7	3.4	145.8
December	33.5	18.4	11.8	4.1	7.1	2.0	82.3
1985—							
January	38.6	12.5	3.5	1.0	4.7	0.1	61.4
February	38.5	11.2	133.2	0.4	3.0	0.7	187.2
March	38.6	14.4	20.9	3.1	6.7	0.6	84.5
April	17.6	11.2	5.0	1.1	9.4	1.2	46.4
May	29.8	26.7	25.9	1.3	10.0	3.6	98.4
June	26.5	22.5	0.7	1.1	3.5	0.5	57.2
July	34.5	37.4	11.6	2.4	13.2	5.4	109.8
August	41.1	21.1	46.6	4.2	13.3	4.6	135.2

(a) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.



CHART 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES  
TWELVE MONTHS ENDED AUGUST 1984 AND 1985

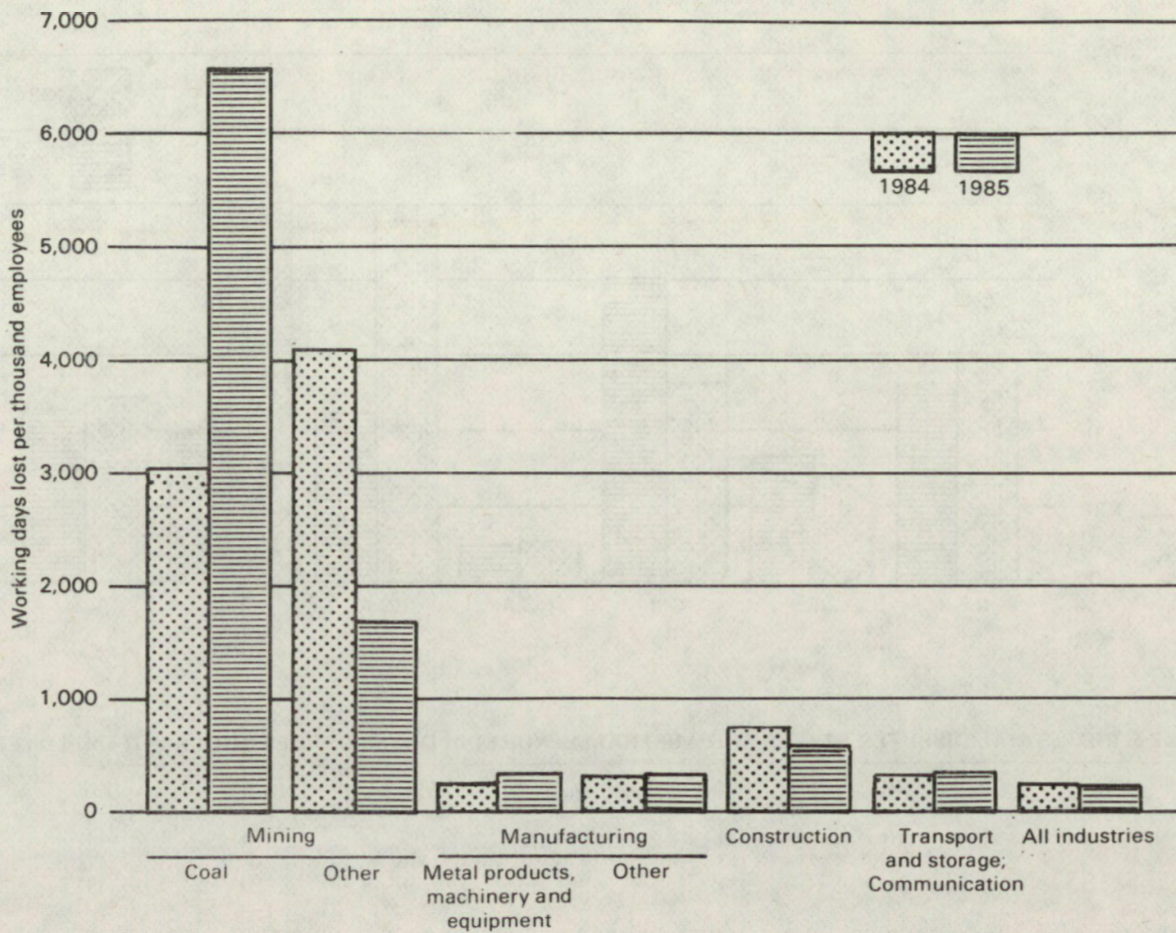


TABLE 4. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES (a)

Period	Mining		Manufacturing		Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries	All industries
	Coal	Other	Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other				
1982	14,645	2,686	471	505	768	688	84	392
1983	3,223	3,375	353	186	1,269	485	42	249
1984	3,543	3,286	327	387	427	346	94	246
Twelve months ended—								
August 1984	3,052	4,096	248	323	748	324	84	246
1985	6,558	1,668	349	328	568	349	67	230

(a) Excludes agriculture, etc. and private households employing staff.



CHART 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES, TWELVE MONTHS ENDED AUGUST 1984 AND 1985

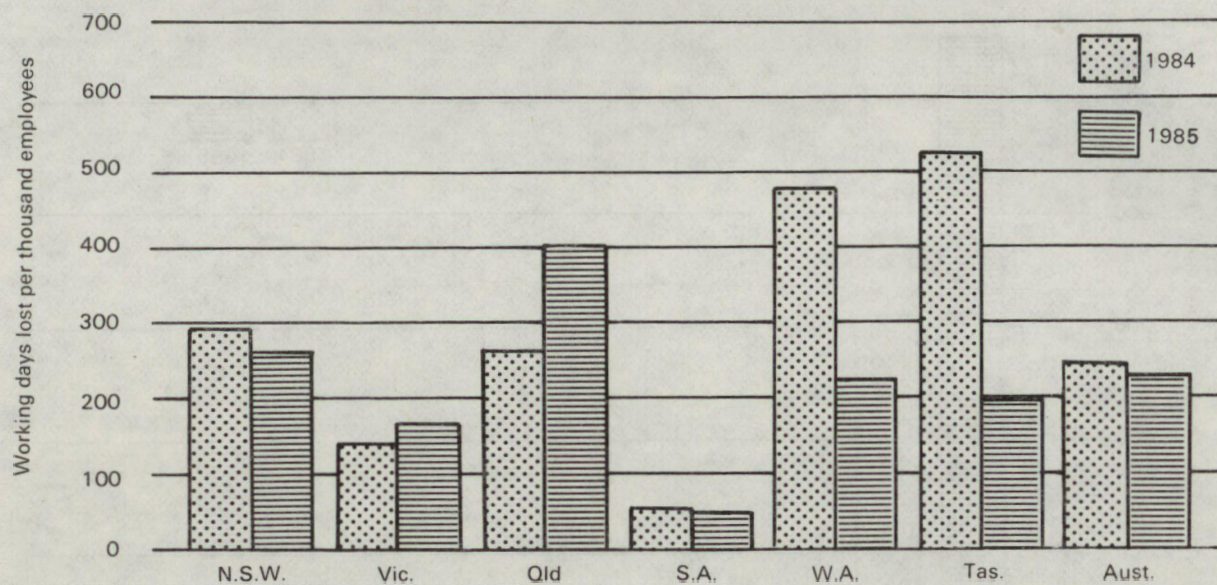


TABLE 5. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.(b)
1982	476	258	660	101	348	431	392
1983	287	163	176	115	577	478	249
1984	355	131	301	56	251	352	246
Twelve months ended—							
August 1984	292	139	262	53	478	524	246
1985	263	165	402	49	224	199	230

(a) Excludes agriculture, etc. and private households employing staff. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.